

NanWpizT1

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

3 MARIA JOSE PIZARRO,

4 Plaintiff,

5 v.

20 Civ. 5783 (AKH)

6 EUROS EL TINA RESTAURANT  
7 LOUNGE AND BILLIARDS CORP., *et*  
*al.*,

8 Defendants.

Trial

9 -----x  
New York, N.Y.  
October 23, 2023  
10:00 a.m.

11 Before:

12 HON. ALVIN K. HELLERSTEIN,

13 District Judge  
14 -and a Jury-

15 APPEARANCES

16 EVAN BRUSTEIN  
17 MARK A. MARINO  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

18 MARTIN E. RESTITUYO  
19 Attorney for Defendants

20  
21 Also Present: Carlos Cruz, Interpreter (Spanish)  
22  
23  
24  
25

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(Trial resumed)

THE COURT: I propose to tell the jury the following:

"Since the close of evidence, the claims against Quezada Jr. have been withdrawn. He's no longer part of the case. You should give no significance to this withdrawal in your deliberations. The two remaining defendants are Euros El Tina Restaurant and Santiago Quezada Sr."

Mr. Brustein.

MR. BRUSTEIN: No objection, your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Restituyo.

MR. RESTITUYO: No objection, your Honor.

THE COURT: Second, I note for the record that we sent a substitute page in the charge dealing with the issue that we discussed on Thursday; namely, the fact that Mr. Quezada Sr. did not testify. And we've marked those Court Exhibits 5A, B and C.

I received no comment by 5 o'clock yesterday, so we'll include that in what we give to the jury.

MR. BRUSTEIN: Your Honor, there was one comment from plaintiff with respect to the summary.

THE COURT: I put the word "should" instead of "may."

MR. BRUSTEIN: Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. We're ready for the jury.

(Jury present)

THE COURT: Good morning, members of the jury. Please

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Summation - Mr. Brustein

1 be seated.

2 Since the close of evidence, the claims against  
3 defendant Quezada Jr. have been withdrawn. He's no longer part  
4 of the case. You should give no significance to this  
5 withdrawal in your deliberations. The two remaining defendants  
6 are Euros El Tina Restaurant and Santiago Quezada Sr.

7 We've reached the summation stage. Mr. Brustein will  
8 go first, Mr. Restituyo will go second and there will be a  
9 short rebuttal by Mr. Brustein. Each side will have 40  
10 minutes.

11 Mr. Brustein.

12 MR. BRUSTEIN: Thank you, your Honor.

13 Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the jury.

14 Today I'm going to speak to you from the head and not  
15 the heart, and I'm going to talk to you about the facts and the  
16 evidence.

17 Thank you for your attention throughout this trial. I  
18 know how hard it has been to listen to the disgusting and  
19 disturbing testimony about what Quezada did to Maria; how hard  
20 it has been to sit through this. We're fortunate to have the  
21 highly esteemed Judge Hellerstein guiding us through this  
22 trial, but now it is your turn to be the judge.

23 Without the black robes, you still hold tremendous  
24 power. You have the power to decide credibility, to decide  
25 what is fair, what is right. You have the power to send Maria

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Summation - Mr. Brustein

1 out of here with nothing or to compensate her for everything  
2 she has endured and what she will endure. You have the power  
3 to punish Quezada for what he did to Maria.

4 We're here in federal court because Maria has the  
5 right to a trial by jury, and not just a jury, but a jury of  
6 her peers. Now, you may have heard the expression "don't make  
7 a federal case out of it." That's because it's a big deal to  
8 be in federal court, and we're not here for something minor.  
9 We're here because Maria's rights were violated. Her federal  
10 rights were violated by Quezada.

11 I told you in my opening statement that this case was  
12 about one thing and one thing only: Quezada's sexual assaults  
13 of Maria. And that's true. So we're not going to ask you to  
14 decide anything about Junior -- not because he's innocent; he's  
15 not. But this case is about more than disturbing, vile and  
16 disgusting conversations about sex with underage girls in front  
17 of Maria. What Junior did pales in comparison to the years of  
18 sexual --

19 MR. RESTITUYO: Objection, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Overruled.

21 MR. BRUSTEIN: -- sexual assault and attempted rape of  
22 Maria, so we've let him out of the case.

23 Let's go through the undisputed facts:

24 Maria and her ex-husband sold their bar to Quezada on  
25 August 13, 2010. Three days later, Quezada gave Maria a gift

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Summation - Mr. Brustein

1 of a \$2 bill that he signed, drew hearts on and her name on.  
2 You know it's undisputed not just because it wasn't disputed by  
3 anyone, but we have a photograph of it in evidence. You also  
4 have the other unwanted gifts, the watch, the perfumes, even  
5 the underwear.

6 Maria was hired by Quezada as a manager of Euros El  
7 Tina to be his employee, where she worked in the back office of  
8 the below-ground discotheque bar in Washington Heights. The  
9 first time Quezada touched Maria inappropriately was in 2011 at  
10 a political event at the restaurant 809. Quezada lifted up  
11 Maria's dress and exposed her underwear to the people at that  
12 event. She was mortified and shamed and ran to the bathroom.  
13 That is undisputed. Quezada heard what was said about him, and  
14 he chose not to deny it.

15 He has the right not to, but you now are left only  
16 with what Maria told you. She told you that after he did that,  
17 she ran crying and shamed to the bathroom. Maria told you that  
18 after that night she stopped wearing dresses in front of  
19 Quezada to protect herself, and she told him never to do that  
20 again. But it didn't end there.

21 No. Quezada began sexually assaulting Maria in 2011  
22 at work. Maria told you how he'd come up from behind and grab  
23 her breasts. She showed you how he grabbed both of her breasts  
24 from behind and how she would try to push him off; how when she  
25 walked in the dark bar, he'd sneak up behind her and squeeze

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Summation - Mr. Brustein

1 her buttocks when no one could see. That is undisputed. This  
2 didn't happen once or twice or ten times, but hundreds of  
3 times, for years, eight years. Quezada touched and grabbed and  
4 squeezed Maria's body, her breasts, her buttocks, without her  
5 permission. That is undisputed. No one testified that it  
6 didn't happen, because it did happen.

7 When Maria would tell him to stop, he threatened her,  
8 told her not to tell anyone, that she lived alone. Maria was  
9 all trapped inside in all sense of the word. She drew the  
10 diagram of her office -- it's a defendant's exhibit -- a  
11 windowless room in a concrete bunker with a metal door and a  
12 combination lock on it so no one else could get in. Who worked  
13 in that office? Maria and Quezada.

14 Quezada owned Euros El Tina, and he treated everyone  
15 in there like his property. He treated Maria like his  
16 property, like a sex slave in his dungeon.

17 Jose Eladio Castro testified that he saw Quezada pee  
18 with the door open, pee from where Maria in her office saw his  
19 penis, had to see his penis at her desk, and repeatedly asked  
20 him to close the door. It's undisputed that Quezada  
21 masturbated feet from Maria's desk. She described seeing his  
22 hand moving up and down on his erect penis. I know how vile  
23 and disgusting the image of Quezada stroking his erect penis is  
24 to hear. Trust me. I hate saying it as much as you hate  
25 hearing it. Now, imagine how she felt seeing it. She will

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Summation - Mr. Brustein

1 have to live with that image for the rest of her life.

2 It's undisputed that Quezada did not just expose his  
3 penis to Maria from the bathroom but that he walked towards her  
4 with his penis out, slowly zipping his fly. It's not  
5 undisputed just because Quezada didn't deny it. It's  
6 undisputed because Mr. Dilone testified that he saw it too.  
7 And defendants moved that statement into evidence. You can  
8 read it for yourselves:

9 "I, Christian Guzman Dilone, being duly sworn, deposed  
10 and say that:"

11 Paragraph 3, "On one occasion I went into the office  
12 as Santiago Quezada Sr. was exiting the bathroom in the office  
13 with his penis out. Mr. Quezada was acting as if this was  
14 normal. Mr. Quezada did not finish putting his penis away  
15 until he was almost at Maria's desk, almost directly in front  
16 of Maria Pizarro's desk. Ms. Pizarro looked shocked."

17 Quezada did not stop there. Now, before we talk about  
18 the events of October 19, 2019, when he tried to rape her,  
19 let's talk about the two claims we have proven here today:

20 First, a hostile work environment.

21 Maria has to prove that her work conditions were  
22 altered because she was subjected to offensive statements or  
23 actions because of her sex or gender.

24 Does anyone actually think that any of the things  
25 Quezada did to Maria would have happened if she was a man? Of

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Summation - Mr. Brustein

1 course not. The reason he grabbed her breasts, squeezed her  
2 buttocks, showed his penis to her and masturbated in front of  
3 her, tried to rape her, is because of her sex and gender,  
4 because she was a woman, a female.

5 Next, Maria has to prove that she did not welcome  
6 these offensive statements or actions. That's undisputed.  
7 Maria testified. She told you how she told him no, pushed him  
8 off her, tried to stop him. She struggled to protect herself  
9 from Quezada.

10 Third, that the conduct was sufficiently severe or  
11 pervasive. "Pervasive" is just a fancy word for especially  
12 unwelcome. Ask yourselves this. Were the years of sexual  
13 assaults especially unwelcome? Of course they were.

14 Finally, Maria needs to prove that she subjectively  
15 perceived the work environment to be abusive. You know she did  
16 because she told you she did.

17 Now, Judge Hellerstein will explain to you that there  
18 is a statute of limitations; that you cannot consider events  
19 before May 17, 2019, unless -- and this is very important,  
20 unless the events before May 17 were sufficiently similar to  
21 the events after May 17. And you know that they were. Why?  
22 Because Maria testified from 2011 until the business closed in  
23 November 2019 that he did this to her repeatedly, grabbing her  
24 breasts, squeezing her buttocks, that he peed with the door  
25 open, masturbated in front of her, and that on October 2019, he



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Summation - Mr. Brustein

1     tried to rape her. So yes, we have proven that they're  
2     sufficiently related.

3             Talk about proof.

4             Our burden of proof is not beyond a reasonable doubt.  
5     Our burden is by a preponderance of the evidence. Picture a  
6     scale, if you will, perfectly even. All we need to show is  
7     ever so slightly that it leans in Maria's favor. What that  
8     means is if you weigh the credible evidence of what Maria said  
9     against what they said and you find what Maria said is more  
10    credible, you must find for Maria.

11            But wait. They didn't say anything at all. It's not  
12    their burden to, but they chose not to, and they chose not to  
13    deny it. So we're just left with what Maria says. So if you  
14    take just a slight feather and place it on Maria's side of the  
15    scale, Maria wins. If it's 51 to 49 in favor of Maria, Maria  
16    wins. If it's 50.00001 to 49.99999 in favor of Maria, Maria  
17    wins.

18            Am I making that clear enough for you?

19            Judge Hellerstein will give you a verdict sheet much  
20    like this one at the end of the case. It's going to ask you,  
21    question 1, as to defendant Euros El Tina, did plaintiff Maria  
22    Jose Pizarro prove by a preponderance of the evidence that she  
23    endured severe or pervasive conduct due to her gender amounting  
24    to a hostile work environment?

25            You know the answer is yes, so you're going to check

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Summation - Mr. Brustein

1 yes.

2 Now, as to the second claim -- that Maria was treated  
3 less well, at least in part, because of her sex or gender as a  
4 female due to defendant's discriminatory intent -- even a  
5 single comment in the right context can be enough. A single  
6 breast grab, a butt squeeze, masturbating with the door open  
7 one time, walking towards Maria with his penis exposed just  
8 once, or October 19, 2019, when he tried to rape her, any one  
9 of those instances, taken by themselves, could be enough for  
10 you to find by a preponderance of the evidence that we've met  
11 our burden.

12 So for question 2, was she treated less well in the  
13 workplace due to her gender by Euros El Tina, again, the answer  
14 is yes, so you're going to check yes.

15 Moving down to question 2, as to defendant Santiago  
16 Quezada Sr., did the plaintiff Maria Jose Pizarro prove, by a  
17 preponderance of the evidence, that, as owner or her supervisor  
18 he treated her less well in the workplace due to her gender?  
19 You know the answer is yes. Of course, check yes.

20 So let's return to October 19, 2019, the night Quezada  
21 tried to rape Maria. That night is undisputed. Maria told you  
22 how Quezada grabbed her from behind, pinned her arms in front  
23 of her, pulled up her shirt, with his other hand yanked down  
24 her pants and underwear, unzipped his fly and placed his erect  
25 penis against her bare buttock. Quezada heard everything that

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Summation - Mr. Brustein

1 was said against him, about him, just like you all did, yet he  
2 chose not to deny it. Why? Because he heard Maria testify.  
3 He knows, just like you do, how credible she is; that she told  
4 the truth about what he did. So he can't deny it.

5 Remember, this was a discotheque. A loud party, 500  
6 people, imagine how loud it must have been in that office.  
7 Jose Eladio Castro testified that he needed to go not just into  
8 the office but into the liquor room and close the door because  
9 it was too loud for him to have a conversation on the phone.  
10 And thank God he did. Maria was trapped in that bunker, and  
11 but for that -- this wasn't a spur-of-the-moment act by  
12 Quezada -- he was going to rape Maria that night. He knew it,  
13 Maria knows it and you know it.

14 How do we know that? Because when he went into that  
15 room, he didn't just rush to grab Maria, pull down her pants  
16 and underwear. Remember back. What was the first thing he did  
17 when he entered that room? He grabbed the computer mouse. He  
18 checked the cameras. He wanted to see what was outside that  
19 door.

20 This wasn't a room that anyone could just walk into.  
21 It was a metal door with a combination lock, with a camera on  
22 the outside of the door so he could know who was coming. He  
23 enlarged that camera on the screen, and while Maria was trapped  
24 in there with him, he knew no one was there, or so he thought,  
25 and that he had time to rape Maria.

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Summation - Mr. Brustein

1           Thank God Castro was there. Castro told you that when  
2 he exited the liquor room, he saw Quezada holding Maria with  
3 her arms pinned in front of her, just like she described; that  
4 he told Quezada to stop. Quezada let go of her, zipped up his  
5 pants, adjusted his clothes and left; that Maria fixed her  
6 clothes and her exposed breasts, ran to the bathroom crying.  
7 That is undisputed. Maria told Quezada the next day that she  
8 was going to do something about it.

9           What did Quezada do? He said: I was drunk, crazy. I  
10 don't remember anything.

11           That's what he always did. Maria knew better, and you  
12 know better. If he was really that drunk, would he have  
13 stopped to grab the computer mouse and adjust the computer  
14 screens to check the cameras? Of course not. And he didn't  
15 deny it under oath either. If Maria had said anything that  
16 wasn't true, they'd be jumping up and down saying she's lying,  
17 calling her witnesses liars.

18           MR. RESTITUYO: Objection, your Honor.

19           THE COURT: You could answer those as you want,  
20 Mr. Restituyo. It's fair argument.

21           MR. BRUSTEIN: They didn't do that. They couldn't do  
22 that, because Maria wasn't lying. And as hard as this week has  
23 been for Maria, sitting, knowing that Quezada was sitting  
24 behind her each day, even now as I'm speaking, the same way she  
25 was assaulted each time from behind by her boss, by Quezada,

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Summation - Mr. Brustein

1 Maria showed up and told the truth. She took that stand,  
2 looked you each in the eyes, looked Judge Hellerstein in the  
3 eyes and told the truth. She answered every question -- not  
4 just mine, not just Restituyo's, Judge Hellerstein's too.

5 You have to credit Maria for her bravery. It's not  
6 easy to get up in front of a bunch of strangers and talk about  
7 years of abuse, of what Quezada did when he tried to rape her.

8 Maria's trauma didn't end when the business closed.  
9 Maria told you she started taking medication for her depression  
10 and high blood pressure in 2011 because of the abusive behavior  
11 of Quezada. But on Christmas, December 2019, Maria tried to  
12 kill herself because of what Quezada did. Maria has told you  
13 over and over how shamed she feels because of what Quezada did  
14 to her.

15 Maria has nothing to be ashamed of. Quezada does. He  
16 stole her voice. He stole her power, and that's why she took  
17 those sleeping pills.

18 Maria told you that after she tried to kill herself,  
19 her psychiatrist changed her treatment plan, put her on  
20 Lexapro, gave her a 24-hour number to call to speak to a  
21 counselor to help her through if she felt suicidal; that she's  
22 called it. Maria has told you about the nightmares she's had  
23 of Quezada trying to asphyxiate her, of Quezada and Junior  
24 trying to run her over with a car.

25 Can you imagine how hard it has been for Maria to sit

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Summation - Mr. Brustein

1 through this trial with Quezada sitting right behind her? None  
2 of that is disputed. Quezada has chosen not to deny any of  
3 this.

4 Now that we've proven hostile work environment and  
5 discrimination, how do we adequately compensate Maria for  
6 everything she's been through, everything she's suffered?  
7 That's not easy. I've thought a lot about it. I've come up  
8 with a well-reasoned number: \$3 million.

9 THE COURT: You're not allowed to mention any numbers.

10 MR. BRUSTEIN: Understood, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: The jury will eradicate that from their  
12 minds. The decision on whether to compensate, how to  
13 compensate, how much to compensate is entirely yours, and the  
14 lawyers are not allowed to suggest any numbers to you.

15 MR. BRUSTEIN: Without coming up with specific  
16 numbers, let me tell you how to evaluate this:

17 First, the October 19, 2019, attempted rape, where he  
18 came up behind her, grabbed her, pinned her arms and pulled  
19 down her pants and underwear; and

20 Second, the torture, eight years of torture: Her  
21 boss, Quezada peeing with the door open, feet from her desk;  
22 masturbating in front of her; walking towards her with his  
23 penis exposed, slowly zipping his fly; the hundreds of times  
24 he'd come up and sexually assault her from behind, grabbing her  
25 breasts, her buttocks.

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Summation - Mr. Brustein

1           You know, in this country, the death penalty is legal.  
2 But the United States Constitution says cruel and unusual  
3 punishment is not.

4           THE COURT: Members of the jury, those phrases are for  
5 criminal cases. This is not a criminal case.

6           Please confine your attention to the merits of this  
7 case.

8           MR. BRUSTEIN: The point is torture is not allowed.  
9 What Quezada did all those years is torture Maria.

10           Maria has emotional injuries from this. You know the  
11 injuries don't stop when the sexual assaults stop. You don't  
12 need to be an expert in psychology to know emotional injuries  
13 last long, longer than physical pain. Emotional injuries are  
14 hard to deal with.

15           Maria has told you about her nightmares, about how  
16 hard it's been to sleep. We all know how hard one night,  
17 restless sleep, tossing and turning, how bad that makes us  
18 feel. Maria has had 12 years of sleepless nights, and her  
19 nightmares don't end when she wakes up. No. Maria has to live  
20 with those for the rest of her life.

21           How many more years will that be? 20? 30? How do we  
22 compensate her not just for the pain up until today but the  
23 future pain and suffering? How do you put a number on that?

24           On the verdict sheet, it's going to ask you for the  
25 defendants for which you answered yes in questions 1 and 2, did

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Summation - Mr. Brustein

1 plaintiff prove by a preponderance of the evidence that she  
2 suffered compensatory damages? And there's a line for the  
3 amount of damages. Don't worry about how big the line is.  
4 Take as much space as you need. Write it in. Think about not  
5 just the past pain, each act, the time she spent trapped in  
6 that bunker, but the time she will take to live with these  
7 memories for the rest of her life.

8 Underneath that, it's going to ask you to divide among  
9 the defendants that you found liable that number. Defendant  
10 Euros as the employer obviously bears some responsibility, but  
11 most of the blame, most of the responsibility has to land at  
12 the foot of the rapist, the sexual molester, Quezada.

13 However you break down those numbers, it needs to add  
14 up to the total amount of compensatory damages.

15 Now, the sheet also lists nominal damages. Nominal  
16 damages are if we've proven that Maria suffered, her rights  
17 were violated, but no damages were proven. I don't really  
18 think that's something that makes sense in an attempted rape  
19 case, but that aside, the only way you can punish the  
20 defendants for what they did is if you found nominal damages,  
21 if you didn't think we had proven compensatory damages. As I  
22 said, I don't think that's a factor, but since it's on the  
23 sheet, I wanted you to understand what it was, and the judge  
24 will explain that to you.

25 Now let's talk about the defendants' theory of the



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Summation - Mr. Brustein

1 case.

2 Mr. Restituyo told you in his opening statement that  
3 there were only two options -- that it didn't happen or she  
4 wasn't offended. They can't sum up on that now because they  
5 didn't put any evidence forward that it didn't happen. It's  
6 undisputed that it did happen.

7 And she wasn't offended? You heard the testimony of  
8 Maria and Castro and Dilone. Wasn't offended? That's  
9 offensive.

10 So what does it leave them with? Just like I said in  
11 my opening, shameless attacks. Some email from 12 years ago  
12 where they claim Maria or Castro said baby or my love? Maria  
13 told you she didn't send that email and that wasn't something  
14 she ever said; that her email was hacked and she switched  
15 accounts. But let them attack her for a fake email from ten  
16 years ago, or that she didn't tell anyone that she was sexually  
17 assaulted by Quezada because he threatened her? Or that she  
18 didn't shout loud enough when he was trying to rape her?

19 You don't need a degree in psychology to know some  
20 women suffer silently in abusive relationships for years. Some  
21 women can't scream at all when they're raped or fight back.  
22 But Maria tried. She struggled and tried to push him off, but  
23 he was too powerful. That she didn't shout loud enough? Shame  
24 on them.

25 Now, let's talk about our theory of the case.

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Summation - Mr. Brustein

1           How do you know it's right?

2           First, it's undisputed; and second, not one but two  
3 witnesses with no stake in the case came in, testified and told  
4 you what they saw. Not more, not less, just what they saw.

5           At the beginning of the case, I told you I was going  
6 to come back to you and ask you to send a message to Maria that  
7 you see her and send a message to the defendants that sexual  
8 assault is wrong. Now is our chance with punitive damages.  
9 Punitive damages are meant to punish defendants for outrageous  
10 conduct and to send a message to others that what they did is  
11 wrong.

12          How do you send that message?

13          It needs to be a big number. I'm not going to tell  
14 you what that number is, but you need to think what number is  
15 right to send that message -- that sexual assault is wrong;  
16 that what they did to Maria is wrong.

17          On page 3 of the verdict sheet, you'll write that  
18 number in, and again, you'll divide the responsibility between  
19 Euros El Tina and Quezada. Then the foreperson will sign the  
20 verdict sheet and tell the court security person that you've  
21 reached a verdict.

22          Now, Mr. Restituyo is going to try and tell you that  
23 what Quezada did wasn't that bad; that Maria's damages are not  
24 that great. He's going to try and minimize everything. But  
25 you know what he said in the opening was it either didn't

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Summation - Mr. Restituyo

1 happen or she wasn't offended. Don't be distracted by  
2 shameless attacks.

3 It's a lot of responsibility to take on Maria's case.  
4 I've worked very hard to try and do everything I could for  
5 Maria, but now, that responsibility is yours. I'm giving  
6 Maria's case to you. Please make sure that you make Quezada  
7 pay for what he did. Send a message loud and clear to Maria  
8 that you see her, that you hear her. Send a message loud and  
9 clear to Quezada and Euros El Tina that they have no choice but  
10 to hear you. Make them pay.

11 Thank you.

12 THE COURT: Mr. Restituyo.

13 MR. RESTITUYO: Can I start setting up, your Honor?

14 THE COURT: One minute.

15 OK. Proceed.

16 MR. RESTITUYO: Good morning, Jury.

17 I want to thank you first for your service and taking  
18 the time to be here. I know it's a burden, and we are all  
19 appreciative of the time that you've taken to be here.

20 Ladies and gentlemen, at the beginning of this trial,  
21 I told you that you would hear some things that would shock  
22 you, some things that would offend you. I told you that I  
23 wanted you to feel shocked and offended. Feel free. That's  
24 what I said. I wanted you to feel the outrage and humiliation  
25 that was being expressed on that stand.

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Summation - Mr. Restituyo

1           Then I told you that I wanted you to match those  
2 emotions with what you would do if you were in a similar  
3 position. If you were that shocked and that outraged and that  
4 humiliated and that scared, what would you have done? Does  
5 that match up with anything that happened here?

6           For example, if you were stuck in an office with a man  
7 wrapped around you and you felt like you were going to be raped  
8 and the guy that could save you was eight feet away, would you  
9 shout? Would you scream for help? After the incident, would  
10 you want to talk about it? Or would you stay at work like  
11 nothing ever happened?

12           What did Ms. Pizarro do? Does that make sense to you?  
13 I'll tell you this, one time, I was eight years old.

14           MR. BRUSTEIN: Objection.

15           MR. RESTITUYO: I almost drowned.

16           THE COURT: Just a minute. Overruled. Go ahead.  
17 Continue.

18           MR. RESTITUYO: I almost drowned in --

19           THE COURT: Don't make yourself the object.

20           MR. RESTITUYO: You're right, your Honor. I'm just  
21 giving an example.

22           THE COURT: Take yourself out of the example.

23           MR. RESTITUYO: I screamed.

24           MR. BRUSTEIN: Objection, your Honor.

25           THE COURT: Take yourself out of the example.

NanWpizT1

Summation - Mr. Restituyo

1 MR. RESTITUYO: I'll move on, your Honor.

2 For a long time I've been thinking about this case.  
3 Specifically, how does one disprove the negative? How do you  
4 prove that something did not happen? It's easy to have a  
5 dispute about what happened. That needs evidence. Things  
6 happened, there are clues, you saw it one way, I saw it another  
7 way, we have a fight. What happens when the story's completely  
8 made up?

9 How, for example, would you convince me that you never  
10 killed anyone? Not being accused of murder does not mean that  
11 you're not some closet serial killer. Denying it doesn't  
12 matter. You'd have to show me every second of your life;  
13 there's a video or a picture. It's impossible.

14 Similarly, if the Quezadas had gotten up there and  
15 told you that for nine years they didn't do anything, that  
16 wouldn't matter. You'd still want the evidence.

17 But there is no evidence of the negative. It's  
18 impossible to prove. Luckily, the law doesn't place the burden  
19 on them to prove the negative. It places the burden on the  
20 accuser to establish that something happened. So did it  
21 happen?

22 Another very interesting thing that I've had to  
23 grapple with is this concept of shock and outrage.  
24 Specifically, does a statement become true simply because it is  
25 outrageous? What if I told you that last week I saw a dummy?

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Summation - Mr. Restituyo

1 MR. BRUSTEIN: Objection, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: One minute.

3 MR. RESTITUYO: Your Honor, I'll move on.

4 THE COURT: Sorry?

5 MR. RESTITUYO: I'll strike it and give another  
6 example, your Honor. It doesn't matter.

7 THE COURT: The objection's overruled.

8 MR. RESTITUYO: I'll provide another example  
9 (inaudible).

10 What if you heard that last week a gentleman near the  
11 courthouse was subdued by three priests who took him into an  
12 alley and forced the gentleman to give one of the priests oral  
13 sex and that the priest pulled out his penis and he put it on  
14 his forehead and he slapped him with it, both his cheeks, with  
15 an erect penis. Would that be true simply because it was  
16 outrageous? Would the priest getting up on the stand and  
17 telling you I didn't do it, would that convince you? The  
18 answer's probably not.

19 Similarly, for me to put the Quezadas on the stand to  
20 tell you we didn't do this would be pointless. But since we're  
21 playing this thought experiment, let's consider what evidence  
22 you might want to see. If, in fact, the scenario had occurred,  
23 you'd probably want to know whether the police was called.  
24 You'd probably want to know whether there was any evidence of  
25 physical or emotional pain or injury. You'd probably want to

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Summation - Mr. Restituyo

1 know whether there were pictures or video of the priests or the  
2 gentlemen or the act or the scene. You'd probably want to know  
3 whether anyone else saw what happened. And finally, you might  
4 want to know whether the person complaining had told anyone  
5 else about it, especially contemporaneously. Presumably, the  
6 more shocked this person was, the quicker they would have let  
7 other people know.

8 Now, here, you've heard a lot of undisputed,  
9 undisputed, undisputed. I just want to be clear. The reason  
10 why we're at trial today is because everything that Ms. Pizarro  
11 has said has been disputed, and my clients have denied  
12 everything --

13 MR. BRUSTEIN: Objection.

14 MR. RESTITUYO: -- from day one.

15 THE COURT: Overruled. The denial is in the  
16 pleadings. Everything's denied. That means that the plaintiff  
17 has the burden to prove the case by a preponderance of the  
18 evidence. But there was no testimony of denial.

19 MR. RESTITUYO: Now, talking about this thought  
20 experiment, let's talk about what evidence looked like. Was  
21 the police called? The answer is no. No, never, anywhere.  
22 Ms. Pizarro never called the police to report any of these  
23 incidents. She never reported these incidents to anyone of  
24 authority at any time.

25 Pizarro claims she was almost raped and was scared for

NanWpizT1

Summation - Mr. Restituyo

1 her life. And yet she didn't mention that to anyone? Her  
2 excuse is that Mr. Quezada was friends with the officers of the  
3 34th precinct, which is the precinct that covers the area  
4 around El Tina Lounge. But then you learn that the same  
5 precinct was so friendly to him that they shut down his  
6 business.

7 Now, in fairness, I'm using the words "shut down"; she  
8 did not say that. She said something way more interesting.  
9 She said that these fine young police officers took time out of  
10 their busy Saturday night to go visit Mr. Quezada at his  
11 establishment, to talk about violations that he should fix in  
12 the future -- not that they're a problem now but that he should  
13 fix. And they didn't issue him any tickets. Not one. They  
14 merely counseled him, and as a result of that counseling,  
15 Mr. Quezada shut down his business, mid-business, and hasn't  
16 opened it since.

17 How sweet. These people sound like guardian angels.  
18 I wish I had people like that in my life, they saw me headed  
19 for trouble and they took me aside and said hey, before you get  
20 into trouble, and I wish I was smart enough to take their  
21 counsel. Ladies and gentlemen, that doesn't even pass the  
22 laugh test.

23 Imagine if someone came to your work in the middle of  
24 your workday and said I'd like to talk to you about your job,  
25 before you get in trouble. Now, let's take a walk. Now,



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Summation - Mr. Restituyo

1 you've done nothing wrong, but I would hate to see you get in  
2 trouble. Maybe you should never come back. I'm sure you'd  
3 walk out of there thinking, wow, what a good friend. Does that  
4 make sense to you?

5 This is what Ms. Pizarro wants you to believe, that  
6 these good friends of Mr. Quezada would ignore her rape  
7 complaint against him because they were so friendly. Oh, and  
8 by the way, if that sounds ridiculous, then you learn she lives  
9 in Queens, a whole other precinct, could have filed her  
10 complaint at any time, with no friends of Mr. Quezada. No  
11 complaint was filed. No police report of anything at any time  
12 ever.

13 Is there evidence that she was physically or  
14 emotionally hurt? Now, here's (inaudible). Ms. Pizarro spent  
15 an hour and a half of her testimony explaining how for the past  
16 12 years, as a result of my client, she's had depression and  
17 that all this time she's been on medication and she almost  
18 committed suicide and she was hospitalized and that she dreams  
19 about my clients killing her on a regular basis. You heard me,  
20 objection, objection, objection. That's crazy. That story is  
21 downright shocking.

22 Now think about this:

23 Other than Maria's testimony, what evidence do you  
24 have that any of that is true? Could you even tell me what  
25 medicine she claims she was on? If my client had been

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Summation - Mr. Restituyo

1 suffering depression at the hands of her harasser for 12 years  
2 and I had three years to prepare for trial, you would have a  
3 prescription and a description. You would know exactly what  
4 she was on, exactly why she was on it and exactly who caused  
5 it.

6 Do you have any of that here? Not one prescription,  
7 not one doctor, not one doctor's note, not one hospital  
8 admission, not a single piece of evidence other than her words  
9 saying that they happened.

10 Ladies and gentlemen, you were on the jury for four  
11 days last week. If I gave you 15 minutes, let alone three  
12 years, you'd come up with a half a dozen pieces of evidence to  
13 show that you were here. A jury card, an email, an  
14 out-of-office message, a text message, a voice mail, a receipt,  
15 a meal voucher. You name it. And by the way, while you're  
16 here, you don't even have your cell phone and don't tell if you  
17 have to leave before you get out of the room. Think about  
18 that. If you had three years, no evidence of nine years of  
19 torture? Does that make sense to you?

20 So I ask again, does a statement become true merely  
21 because it's outrageous? And if you think, well, no one would  
22 lie like that, have you read any good fiction books? You think  
23 fiction writers are the only ones with that skill? They write  
24 fake books because they make real money. What do you think  
25 this case is about?

NanWpizT1

Summation - Mr. Restituyo

1 Are there any pictures to support these allegations?  
2 The answer is no. Not a single picture, not a single video of  
3 any incident alleged. Ms. Pizarro has tried to paint a picture  
4 in your head with the words that she has stated. But no actual  
5 pictures have been presented of any incident. Think about  
6 that. We've heard the word "penis" over and over and over  
7 again in this courtroom. He showed his penis, he pulled out  
8 his penis, he strolled across the room with his penis, he had  
9 his penis against the butt and was moving it. Penis, penis,  
10 penis all over the place. Not a single dick pic, and yet  
11 you've seen a screenshot of a monitor full of cameras. There  
12 are cameras pointing into the very room that show the monitors.  
13 This is a bar in Washington Heights. Do you think those  
14 cameras are there for show?

15 Are you going to tell me that in nine years,  
16 Ms. Pizarro couldn't figure out how to get one picture of  
17 Santiago Quezada with his penis out? Not one? With a camera  
18 that her husband installed, that she used every single day? So  
19 as to the question are there any pictures or videos of the  
20 incident, the answer is no, not a single one.

21 But we're not crazy. What about the pictures of the  
22 presents, you ask. What about them, I would say.

23 May I show this to the jury, please, Plaintiff's  
24 Exhibit 1, page 2.

25 THE COURT: If it's in evidence --

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Summation - Mr. Restituyo

1 MR. RESTITUYO: It's in evidence, your Honor.  
2 Everything I'm going to show is in evidence.

3 THE COURT: OK.

4 MR. RESTITUYO: Ms. Pizarro wants you to believe that  
5 she has proof that Mr. Quezada accosted her because --

6 MR. BRUSTEIN: I can't see anything.

7 THE DEPUTY CLERK: It was on. Did you guys see it?

8 MR. RESTITUYO: It's plaintiff's 1, picture 2.

9 MR. BRUSTEIN: Thank you.

10 THE COURT: Do you have it, Mr. Brustein? Is it on  
11 your monitor?

12 MR. BRUSTEIN: No. Our monitor's black, your Honor.

13 MR. RESTITUYO: I'll explain everything I'm showing.  
14 These are his exhibits. When they're not, I'll explain.

15 THE DEPUTY CLERK: It's probably something I can't fix  
16 because they're all on. Is yours on in the back?

17 MR. RESTITUYO: It is. Mr. Brustein is welcome to sit  
18 at my desk.

19 MR. BRUSTEIN: That's fine, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Go ahead.

21 MR. RESTITUYO: Ms. Pizarro wants you to believe that  
22 she has proof that Quezada Sr. accosted her because she has  
23 these items that she took pictures of, and she says they were  
24 presented by him. And I want you to think, seriously, does  
25 that make sense? The only item that can be tied back to

NanWpizT1

Summation - Mr. Restituyo

1 Mr. Quezada for sure is a picture of a \$2 bill with his  
2 signature. I'm going to place here plaintiff's 1, page 3. And  
3 just for comparison, look back -- you'll be able to ask for  
4 these exhibits, but this was picture 1, plaintiff's 1, page 2,  
5 all the items; and plaintiff's 1, page 3.

6 Now, this was given to Ms. Quezada three days -- to  
7 Ms. Pizarro, sorry -- three days after Mr. Quezada purchased  
8 the business from her husband. And she admitted that it was in  
9 commemoration of the purchase of the business. However, from  
10 there, she wants you to believe that Mr. Quezada was brazen  
11 enough to put hearts on this bill and her name -- and her name  
12 on it.

13 Now, let's just, for the sake of argument, say that he  
14 had the balls to do that. Let's just say that. So three days  
15 into their business relationship, he has the balls -- because  
16 that's what it would take -- to give her a \$2 bill in front of  
17 her husband with hearts and her name on it. And then for the  
18 next nine years, not a damn thing? Not one voice mail, not one  
19 love note, not one email, not one text message? Nothing? How  
20 does that even make sense? That brazen on day one -- never  
21 again.

22 So then I ask as to the question of whether there are  
23 videos or pictures, the resounding answer is no.

24 Did anyone else see what happened? Here, we  
25 supposedly have two witnesses.

NanWpizT1

Summation - Mr. Restituyo

1 Mr. Castro, an attorney, who was also suing  
2 Mr. Quezada after the business closed, eloquently explained an  
3 incident that he claims that he saw. Mr. Castro wants you to  
4 believe that on the evening of October 19, he witnessed  
5 Mr. Quezada trying to rape Ms. Pizarro. He explained to you  
6 how he felt shocked by the situation. He described how he saw  
7 Ms. Pizarro disheveled and with her breasts out. She was  
8 flustered and shaken. And then they didn't even talk about it?  
9 Are you for real? I mean not one conversation? Didn't even  
10 tell anyone else about it? He didn't even confront Mr. Quezada  
11 about it? He didn't call the police? Nothing?

12 He's a lawyer. What do you think the odds of that  
13 are? And just to be clear, he and Ms. Pizarro have been  
14 working together since 2012. He's testifying at her trial.  
15 She's testifying in his trial. And you mean to tell me there's  
16 not one email or text message about this, about all the  
17 innumerable instances of sexual harassment that he witnessed?  
18 Does that make sense? Did he sound like a person who has  
19 trouble with words?

20 Let's talk about Mr. Dilone. Here's a special guy.

21 Mr. Dilone got up on the witness stand, and he says  
22 that he saw Mr. Quezada walk out of the bathroom, penis in  
23 hand, walk all the way across the room to Ms. Pizarro's chair,  
24 penis in hand, before deciding to put his penis in his pants  
25 and zip them up, while standing in front of the two of them.

NanWpizT1

Summation - Mr. Restituyo

1 He claims he felt shocked. And saw her feel humiliated. But  
2 then he did nothing about it. And by nothing, I mean nothing.  
3 He never spoke about it to anyone. Like no one, like not his  
4 partner, like not his colleagues, like not his boss, like not  
5 the police, like not Quezada Jr. Nothing, no one, like it  
6 never happened. No one, that is, except Ms. Pizarro and her  
7 attorneys, of course.

8 I'm going to show you now defendants' A into evidence.  
9 This is the affidavits of Mr. Dilone.

10 So three years ago, Mr. Dilone himself spoke to  
11 plaintiff's attorneys, and they submitted an affidavit in  
12 support of this case.

13 MR. BRUSTEIN: Objection, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Sorry?

15 MR. BRUSTEIN: Objection. There's no testimony of any  
16 of that.

17 THE COURT: Sustained.

18 MR. RESTITUYO: Mr. Dilone submitted an affidavit in  
19 support of this case.

20 THE COURT: We're taking this as testimony, so you  
21 don't have to show the exhibit.

22 MR. RESTITUYO: Well, I want to show the exhibit.

23 THE COURT: It's an exhibit for identification.

24 (Indiscernible overlap)

25 THE COURT: Mr. Restituyo, when I make a ruling, don't

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Summation - Mr. Restituyo

1 speak over me. All right? Listen to my ruling.

2 My ruling is you can't use it. You can talk about it,  
3 but you can't use it.

4 MR. RESTITUYO: OK.

5 THE COURT: It's not a real exhibit. It's just  
6 testimony.

7 MR. RESTITUYO: OK.

8 He signed the document on December -- in December  
9 2020, and in that, he talks about this incident, of a walking  
10 across the room, penis in hand, etc. And then he got up on  
11 that witness stand and told you, by the way, I also saw him  
12 slap a waitress in the ass.

13 Now, here's the funny thing about that. You think  
14 three years ago when he sat down to write this affidavit,  
15 somebody told him: No, no. I don't want to hear anything.  
16 Don't tell me the whole truth, wait for the jury stand. Do you  
17 think he saved it? You think he forgot, and now magically, all  
18 of a sudden, on the stand remembered? Maybe you think it  
19 didn't happen. And by the way, where is this lady he slapped  
20 in the ass anyway? And by the way, where is the picture or the  
21 video of that?

22 Like I said, in a business full of cameras, and you  
23 saw the screen, there's not one picture of any incident.

24 So you heard the witnesses who testified. But what  
25 about the witnesses who didn't testify? How many other



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Summation - Mr. Restituyo

1 employees did you hear from? How many other women did you hear  
2 from?

3 MR. BRUSTEIN: Objection, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Overruled.

5 MR. RESTITUYO: Not one. Not one.

6 Who did Ms. Pizarro tell, and when did she tell them?  
7 The short answer is she didn't tell anyone anything ever. She  
8 didn't tell the police. She didn't tell the Quezada family,  
9 and you know she had an opportunity to do that, not the wife,  
10 not the daughter, not the brothers of Quezada Sr., not the  
11 security guard, not the other managers. No one. You mean to  
12 tell me for nine years she was harassed, didn't send a single  
13 message about this to her best friend or her sister? You know  
14 the one who was so worried about her when she was committing  
15 suicide? She didn't tell her anything about this for nine  
16 years? Not one message, not one email, not one voice mail, not  
17 one text, nothing, to anyone, ever. And then the business  
18 closes, and magically we're suing?

19 Now, jury, I'm not going to get into the verdict form  
20 that Mr. Brustein did. But at the end of the day, you're going  
21 to have to make a decision whether Ms. Pizarro was treated less  
22 well. We've established that there is no evidence. Plaintiff  
23 dropped all her claims against Quezada Jr. Now you're being  
24 asked to determine whether Quezada Sr. and the company treated  
25 Ms. Pizarro less well because of her gender.

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Summation - Mr. Restituyo

1           And so I ask you this. Less well than who? Less well  
2 is a comparative concept, right? So somebody must have been  
3 treated more well. So who have you heard to compare  
4 Ms. Pizarro to? What other male employee at El Tina Lounge did  
5 you hear from? What other female employee did you hear from?  
6 What other manager did you hear from? The answer is no one.

7           Castro, to be clear, is a promoter and an independent  
8 contractor.

9           MR. BRUSTEIN: Objection.

10          THE COURT: Overruled.

11          MR. RESTITUYO: The security guard works for an  
12 independent contractor. You did not hear anyone who worked at  
13 El Tina Lounge that was an employee that was treated more well  
14 than Ms. Pizarro. Ms. Pizarro was the boss and remained the  
15 boss until the business closed. Who did she say suffered less  
16 than her? Who testified to tell you that she suffered less  
17 than they did? No one.

18          A word on Ms. Pizarro.

19          Ms. Pizarro was the general manager of El Tina Lounge,  
20 a bar-lounge located in Washington Heights. For nine years El  
21 Tina Lounge was open, that El Tina Lounge was open -- for nine  
22 years meaning from day one until the end of the business -- she  
23 was a supervisor of 30 employees plus contractors. She managed  
24 waitresses, bartenders, security guards, contractors,  
25 Mr. Castro, performers, patrons, cast, the owners and almost

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Summation - Mr. Restituyo

1 every other problem that presented itself. Ms. Pizarro is no  
2 slouch. She knew how to manage people and she knew how to get  
3 things done.

4 I'm sure that it is tempting to see Ms. Pizarro's  
5 soft-spoken nature and mistake her as frail. But that is not  
6 the case. Please don't mistake her quiet demeanor for  
7 meekness. And as you will recall, her testimony was cunning  
8 and assertive. She had an answer and, more importantly, an  
9 excuse for everything. She said what she meant to say, and she  
10 told you the story that she wanted you to hear. And yet in the  
11 nine years of alleged constant assault and the three years to  
12 prepare for this trial, neither Ms. Pizarro nor her attorneys  
13 can provide us with a single piece of evidence to back up her  
14 allegations. Not one prescription, not one picture, not one  
15 love note, not one text message, not one concrete piece of  
16 evidence to back up any of the allegations that she made at  
17 this trial. For God sakes, she couldn't even get another  
18 employee to testify.

19 Now I want to talk to you about lack of damages. If  
20 you believe that Ms. Pizarro -- if you believe Ms. Pizarro, you  
21 are convinced by her story, that she was sexually harassed and  
22 treated less well, then I want you to give her every penny she  
23 deserves. You're not going to hear me ask you to hedge. Do  
24 not hedge. If she deserves it, give it to her. But if she  
25 didn't prove her case and she can't establish that anything

NanWpizT1

Rebuttal

1 happened to her, then that number, it has to be zero. There's  
2 no damages for losing. But it might as well be a million  
3 dollar victory. My clients have sat here. Their names have  
4 been dragged through the mud for three years. Take that into  
5 account.

6 When you go back into the jury room to deliberate, all  
7 I'm asking you to do is think about these four questions:

8 One, which I asked at the very beginning, did  
9 Ms. Pizarro's actions match her outrage?

10 Two, have you seen any corroborating evidence?

11 Three, does a lie become more believable simply  
12 because it is shocking and offensive?

13 Four, should a plaintiff be rewarded for lying?

14 Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your service. I  
15 wish you Godspeed and (inaudible).

16 Have a good day.

17 THE COURT: Mr. Brustein, ten minutes, for rebuttal.

18 After Mr. Brustein completes his rebuttal, we'll take  
19 our morning break.

20 MR. BRUSTEIN: Shameless attacks. You heard  
21 Mr. Restituyo tell you that you can't believe Maria because she  
22 suffered in silence, that you would have acted differently.  
23 The question isn't how I or Mr. Restituyo or how any of you  
24 might have acted in that situation. Thank God we don't know.  
25 We weren't there. We heard from three witnesses who were, and

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Rebuttal

1 Ms. Pizarro told you why she suffered in silence.

2 He wants you to believe that she didn't prove it  
3 because she didn't take a dick pic? Are you kidding me? She's  
4 not looking for a photograph when she's trying to be raped --  
5 when she's trying to avoid being raped. She's looking for  
6 help. She's trying to protect herself.

7 This is not a fan moment. This is serious, and  
8 Mr. Restituyo, the reason he's hired is because he gets up and  
9 talks a great game, smiling, laughing. This is about serious  
10 stuff, about attempted rape. Shame on them for not taking this  
11 seriously.

12 How do men like Quezada get away with this? Fear and  
13 silence. That's why people suffer in silence. Because they're  
14 afraid.

15 Maria spoke out. She had two other people speak out  
16 too. Their whole defense -- no one said anything sooner. Have  
17 you ever watched something that you thought was wrong but you  
18 weren't brave enough to say something in the moment and you  
19 thought to yourself shame on me for not speaking up?

20 They finally spoke up, and they want to shame them  
21 because they didn't speak up soon enough? No. The way people  
22 like this get away with it is silence.

23 Send a message that is loud, that they must hear.  
24 Make them pay.

25 Thank you.

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Charge

1 THE COURT: We'll take a short break, members of the  
2 jury. Close up your books. Keep them on your chairs, and  
3 we'll come back in 15 minutes.

4 (Recess)

5 THE COURT: Be seated.

6 I thought the verdict sheet needed a little  
7 clarification, so I did it with questions 3, 4 and 5, which  
8 I've distributed, and we'll mark as Court Exhibit 6.

9 Is there any objection?

10 Mr. Brustein.

11 MR. BRUSTEIN: No objection, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Mr. Restituyo.

13 MR. RESTITUYO: No objection, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Thank you.

15 Let's bring in the jury.

16 (Jury present)

17 THE COURT: Be seated, everyone.

18 It's my duty at this point, members of the jury, to  
19 give you the instructions as to the law. You're required to  
20 follow the law as I give it to you. You are the sole triers of  
21 facts.

22 But before we get into this charge, I want to thank  
23 you for your patience and attention throughout. You've been an  
24 excellent jury. You followed the testimony. You listened  
25 carefully. I could see it on your faces, and you're prepared

NanWpizT1

Charge

1 now to listen to the charge and, after that, to begin your  
2 deliberations.

3 A charge does three things. First, I explain the  
4 rules and procedures that generally apply to a civil jury  
5 trial. Second, I explain how to decide whether the plaintiff  
6 has proved that defendants violated the laws that the plaintiff  
7 claims they violated, and these include liability and damages.  
8 And third, I'll explain the procedures by which you should  
9 conduct your deliberations.

10 You've heard all the evidence. You've heard the final  
11 arguments of the lawyers, and now these are my instructions.

12 You must take the law as I give it to you. If any  
13 attorney has stated legal principles different from what I  
14 state in these instructions, it's my instructions that you  
15 should follow. Consider them as a whole when you deliberate  
16 rather than singling out any one instruction as stating the  
17 law. And you should not be concerned about the wisdom of any  
18 rule that I state. Regardless of whatever opinion you think I  
19 have, it's your decision about the facts. I cannot intrude,  
20 and I do not wish to intrude, on your province to decide the  
21 facts.

22 A jury is critical to the administration of justice.  
23 The right of trial by jury is guaranteed by the Constitution.  
24 Rights to trial by jury are fundamental to our nation,  
25 fundamental to the safeguard of our liberties.

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Charge

1 In deciding this case, you'll pass upon the weight of  
2 the evidence, not the number of witnesses. You determine the  
3 credibility of the witnesses. You resolve any conflicts that  
4 might exist in the testimony, and you draw whatever reasonable  
5 inferences are appropriate from the facts as you see them.

6 The evidence is the answers given by the witnesses --  
7 that is, their testimony -- and the exhibits that were received  
8 in evidence. It's these that you base your verdict on, nothing  
9 else.

10 What I have said is not evidence. What the lawyers  
11 have said in their openings and closing arguments is not  
12 evidence. The evidence is what the witnesses testified to  
13 under oath and what the documents have said.

14 You may not consider any testimony or exhibits or  
15 arguments that I directed you to disregard. If an answer has  
16 been stricken, you must entirely disregard it as though the  
17 words were never spoken. If I sustained an objection to a  
18 question before the witness answered, please disregard, and you  
19 must disregard, the question entirely. You may draw no  
20 inferences from the wording of the question nor speculate about  
21 how it might have been answered.

22 Plaintiff Maria Pizarro has alleged that defendants  
23 Euros El Tina and Santiago Quezada Sr. violated her rights  
24 under federal, state and city law. As the plaintiff, Pizarro  
25 must prove the facts that support her allegations by a



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1 preponderance of the evidence.

2           When a party is required to prove a fact by a  
3 preponderance of the evidence, it means that that party must  
4 prove that the fact is more likely true than not true. A  
5 preponderance of the evidence means the greater weight,  
6 qualitatively, of the evidence. In determining whether a claim  
7 has been proved by a preponderance of the evidence, you must  
8 consider the relevant testimony of all witnesses, regardless of  
9 who called them, and of all exhibits, regardless of who  
10 produced them. If you find that the credible evidence on a  
11 given issue is equally divided between the parties -- that is,  
12 it is equally probable that plaintiff Pizarro is right as it is  
13 that defendants are right -- then you must decide that issue  
14 against the plaintiff.

15           If the evidence relevant to an issue is equal,  
16 plaintiff Pizarro has failed to satisfy her burden of proof.  
17 However, plaintiff Pizarro need prove no more than a  
18 preponderance. If you find that the scales tip, however  
19 slightly, in her favor -- that is, that what she claims is more  
20 likely true than not true -- she will have proved her case by a  
21 preponderance of the evidence.

22           I gave you that example of weights evenly divided,  
23 tipping slightly one way or the other, at the beginning of the  
24 case. This is not a case where anyone has to prove anything  
25 beyond a reasonable doubt. The standard is preponderance of

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1 the evidence.

2 This is an employment discrimination case. Plaintiff  
3 alleges that she was subjected to sexual harassment so severe  
4 or pervasive as to change the terms and conditions of her  
5 employment, amounting to a hostile work environment; that she  
6 was treated less well than others because of her gender, of her  
7 sex, and that she was discriminated against as a woman.

8 Plaintiff makes her complaint against her employer,  
9 Euros El Tina, under federal, state and city law, and she makes  
10 her claim against Santiago Quezada Sr. under New York City law.  
11 They vary slightly, and I'll get into it in a few minutes.

12 Plaintiff claimed that she sustained emotional injury  
13 because of these acts and seeks recovery against defendants on  
14 these bases. And I'll talk more about that in a few minutes as  
15 well.

16 Defendants Euros El Tina and Santiago Quezada Jr. deny  
17 plaintiff's allegations. That's the issue that has been set up  
18 by the assertion of the claims and the denial of the claims.  
19 And then we have the proofs, and that's what you heard during  
20 the trial.

21 There are two defendants in this case: the company,  
22 Euros El Tina; and the owner, Quezada Sr. Plaintiff Pizarro  
23 has the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence with  
24 regard to each defendant. You must make that assessment for  
25 each claim asserted. Just because you find that plaintiff has

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1 met her burden with respect to one defendant does not  
2 necessarily mean that she's met her burden with respect to the  
3 other. You must judge each claim against each defendant.

4 Now, the laws that plaintiff claims were violated:

5 Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the federal  
6 law, Title 42, United States Code, Section 2000e-2(a)(1),  
7 provides that it is unlawful for an employer to discriminate  
8 against any individual with respect to her terms, conditions,  
9 or privileges of employment, because of such individual's race,  
10 color, religion, sex or national origin. It is unlawful to  
11 discriminate against any individual with respect to her terms,  
12 conditions, or privileges of employment because of such  
13 individual's race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

14 Under New York State law, which is Executive Law  
15 Section 296.1a, provides that it is an unlawful discriminatory  
16 practice for an employer, because of an individual's gender  
17 identity, to discriminate against such individual in terms,  
18 conditions, or privileges of employment. The federal and state  
19 laws are equivalent; they're essentially the same.

20 The New York City Human Rights Law is a little  
21 different. It's Administrative Code, Section 8-107(1)(a), and  
22 that law provides that it is an unlawful discriminatory  
23 practice for an employer or an employee or agent thereof,  
24 because of her gender, to discriminate against a person in  
25 terms, conditions, or privileges of employment.

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1           It sounds the same, but it amounts to a little  
2 difference, which I'll get into.

3           The case against the employers is under federal or  
4 state law. The case against the employee he discriminates  
5 against, if he had discriminated, is under city law. And we'll  
6 get into that.

7           First, let me tell you what is a hostile work  
8 environment.

9           To succeed on such a claim, an employee must prove  
10 against an employer that her work conditions were altered  
11 because of four things:

12           One, she was subjected to offensive statements or  
13 actions because of her sex or her feminine gender;

14           Two, she did not welcome the offensive statements or  
15 actions;

16           Three, the conduct was sufficiently severe or  
17 pervasive that a reasonable person in her position would find  
18 it hostile or abusive; and

19           Four, she subjectively perceived that the work  
20 environment was abusive.

21           We'll get into each one.

22           The first element of a hostile work environment claim  
23 is that the employee was subjected to offensive statements or  
24 actions because of her sex or her feminine gender. Plaintiff  
25 must prove she was subjected to offensive statements or actions

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1 because she is a female. That she's a female is, of course,  
2 not contested.

3 The second element of a hostile work environment claim  
4 is that the employee did not welcome the offensive statements  
5 or actions. Whether Ms. Pizarro did not welcome or consented  
6 to the offensive behavior is a question of fact that the  
7 plaintiff must prove and you must find by a preponderance of  
8 the evidence. Casual contact and conversation among friends or  
9 coworkers is not considered offensive in the absence of  
10 aggravating circumstances, such as continued contact after an  
11 objection. Use your common sense to determine if defendants'  
12 behavior was unwelcome. And plaintiff must prove that it was  
13 unwelcome by a preponderance of the evidence.

14 The third element of a hostile work environment claim  
15 is that the conduct was sufficiently severe or pervasive that a  
16 reasonable person in her position would find it hostile or  
17 abusive, thereby altering her working conditions. There is no  
18 magic formula to this. In determining if the conduct was  
19 severe or pervasive, you can consider all the circumstances,  
20 including the frequency of the conduct, the severity of the  
21 conduct, whether it was physically threatening or humiliating,  
22 or a casual utterance or conduct, and whether defendants'  
23 course of conduct unreasonably interfered with her work  
24 performance.

25 Euros El Tina and Quezada Sr. are governed by somewhat

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1 different standards under city law. What I've just said --  
2 severe or pervasive, altering the working conditions -- are  
3 federal and state laws.

4 Under city law, plaintiff must prove by a  
5 preponderance of the evidence that she was subjected to  
6 unwanted gender-based conduct that constitutes more than petty  
7 slights or trivial inconveniences, even if the conduct was not  
8 severe or pervasive; namely, that she was treated not well, not  
9 as well as others because of her feminine gender.

10 The fourth and final element of a hostile work  
11 environment claim is that the victim subjectively perceived the  
12 work environment to be abusive. If you find that plaintiff  
13 proved by a preponderance of the evidence that she believed the  
14 work environment to be abusive, this element is satisfied. If  
15 plaintiff fails to prove this element -- namely, that the  
16 conduct was unwelcome -- defendants are not liable for what  
17 they said or did.

18 Plaintiff testified that the hostile work environment  
19 existed throughout her employment between August 2010 and  
20 November 2019, when the business closed. Because of the  
21 statute of limitations, you may consider only acts that took  
22 place after May 17, 2019, with one important exception.

23 If the conduct before and after May 17, 2019, was  
24 sufficiently similar in nature, frequency and severity that it  
25 can be considered sufficiently related as to be part of a

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1 hostile work environment, you can conclude that. However, if  
2 the conduct spans across people, departments and large time  
3 intervals without having harassing conduct, then you could find  
4 the acts to be insufficiently related.

5 Plaintiff has the burden to prove by a preponderance  
6 of the evidence that the hostile acts were sufficiently  
7 related.

8 Defendant Euros El Tina was plaintiff's employer. An  
9 employer is presumed to be responsible for a hostile work  
10 environment created by an owner or supervisor with immediate,  
11 or successively higher, authority over the complaining  
12 employee.

13 An employer may avoid liability if two elements are  
14 met:

15 First, the employer must have exercised reasonable  
16 care to prevent and correct promptly any sexually harassing  
17 behavior; and

18 Second, that the employee unreasonably failed to take  
19 advantage of any preventive or corrective opportunities  
20 provided by the employer to avoid harm.

21 We call this an affirmative defense, and it's the  
22 defendant -- not the plaintiff -- it's defendant Euros's burden  
23 to prove it. It has the burden of preponderance of the  
24 evidence. If the defendant Euros fails to prove by a  
25 preponderance of the evidence these two facts -- that it

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1 exercised reasonable care to prevent and correct promptly any  
2 sexually harassing behavior; and that plaintiff failed to take  
3 advantage of that procedure -- an affirmative defense is  
4 proven. If a defendant fails to prove that affirmative defense  
5 by a preponderance of the evidence, it's out of the case.

6 Against both defendants, Euros El Tina and Santiago  
7 Quezada Sr., plaintiff must prove by a preponderance of the  
8 evidence that she was treated less well, at least in part,  
9 because of her sex, because of her gender as a female, due to  
10 defendants' discriminatory intent.

11 I said that Euros El Tina was governed only by federal  
12 and state law. I was mistaken. It's also governed by city  
13 law.

14 You can find liability under city law without a  
15 tangible adverse employment action. Plaintiff must show by a  
16 preponderance of the evidence that she was subjected to  
17 differential treatment based on a discriminatory motive or  
18 intent because she was a female. Even a single comment may be  
19 actionable in the proper context under city law. However, if  
20 you find that Ms. Pizarro only endured an overbearing or  
21 obnoxious boss, you may find that she has not met her burden.

22 To summarize, against defendant Euros El Tina, if  
23 plaintiff proved by a preponderance of the evidence that she  
24 was subjected to offensive behavior due to being a female that  
25 was so severe or pervasive as to alter her employment



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1 conditions, you find the restaurant liable. If plaintiff  
2 proved by a preponderance of the evidence that she was  
3 subjected to less well treatment due to being a female,  
4 creating a hostile work environment during her term of  
5 employment at Euros El Tina, you should also find defendant  
6 Euros El Tina liable.

7 Against defendant Santiago Quezada Sr., if plaintiff  
8 proved by a preponderance of the evidence that his conduct  
9 subjected her to less well treatment due to being a female,  
10 creating a hostile work environment, you should find Quezada  
11 Sr. liable.

12 I'm going to distribute a verdict sheet to you, to the  
13 foreperson. There are four questions with subdivisions that  
14 you'll be given.

15 The first two, on the first page, are liability  
16 questions. You are to answer as to defendant Euros El Tina,  
17 did the plaintiff Maria Jose Pizarro prove by a preponderance  
18 of the evidence that, A, she endured severe or pervasive  
19 conduct due to her gender, amounting to a hostile work  
20 environment? You answer yes or no.

21 And second, as to defendant Euros El Tina, did  
22 plaintiff Maria Jose Pizarro prove by a preponderance of the  
23 evidence that she was treated less well in the workplace due to  
24 her gender? Again, it's yes or no. You can answer both  
25 questions, and you should answer both questions.

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1           Second, as to defendant Santiago Quezada Sr., did  
2 plaintiff Maria Jose Pizarro prove by a preponderance of the  
3 evidence that, as owner or her supervisor, he treated her less  
4 well in the workplace due to her gender? There's only one set  
5 of questions for that. Again, it's yes or no.

6           Now we get to damages.

7           You reach the issue of damages only if you've found  
8 liability. There are three types of damages, which I'll cover:  
9 Compensatory damages, nominal damages, and punitive damages.

10          As with all other issues in the case, plaintiff has  
11 the burden to prove the damages she actually suffered by a  
12 preponderance of the evidence. Damages must be based on  
13 evidence, not on your speculation, sympathy or guesswork. And  
14 the evidence, again, is the testimony that was given and the  
15 documents that were shown to you and offered into evidence and  
16 accepted in evidence.

17          Plaintiff does not have to prove her damages with  
18 mathematical precision.

19          Let me start with nominal damages.

20          If you find that either defendant is liable to  
21 plaintiff but find that plaintiff has failed to prove by a  
22 preponderance of the evidence that she suffered any actual  
23 damages, then you must award her what we call nominal damages.

24          Nominal damages must be awarded when the plaintiff has  
25 been deprived by the defendant of a right but has suffered no

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1 actual damage as a natural consequence of that deprivation.

2 The mere fact that a deprivation of rights occurred is an  
3 injury to the person entitled to enjoy those rights, even when  
4 no actual damages flow from the deprivation.

5 Nominal damages may be as little as a penny and no  
6 greater than a dollar.

7 Then there are compensatory damages.

8 If you find that plaintiff has proven any of the  
9 claims just discussed, then you should determine whether and to  
10 what extent that plaintiff is entitled to damages.

11 **Compensatory damages can be physical damage -- that**  
12 **is, if you suffer any injury to the person physically -- or**  
13 **they can be emotional damages. Emotional damage is what**  
14 **happens to you: pain, suffering, lingering feelings, anything**  
15 **of that nature. The important point is that plaintiff must**  
16 **prove her damages, whether physical or emotional, or both; she**  
17 **must prove that by a preponderance of the evidence, and that's**  
18 **compensatory damages. You can compensate her for the physical**  
19 **or emotional injury that she has suffered and likely may**  
20 **continue to suffer. Again, plaintiff's burden is by a**  
21 **preponderance of the evidence.**

22 Now, if plaintiff proves either compensatory or  
23 nominal damages, she may also be entitled to punitive damages.  
24 To be entitled to punitive damages, the plaintiff must prove  
25 against each defendant that the defendant's conduct not only

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1 was wrongful but also was malicious, oppressive, wanton, or  
2 showed a callous or reckless disregard of her rights. The  
3 purpose of punitive damages is to punish a defendant for  
4 shocking conduct and to set an example to deter others from  
5 committing similar acts in the future. Punitive damages are to  
6 be awarded only if you believe that the defendant acted so  
7 outrageously that an example and a deterrent needs to be  
8 provided to assure that the defendant and others will be less  
9 likely to engage in such conduct in the future. Any award you  
10 give should be reasonable and proportionate to the need to  
11 punish and deter.

12 You should not in any of these respects -- nominal,  
13 compensatory, punitive -- consider attorney's fees. They are  
14 not to be considered in your calculation. That is for the  
15 Court to determine. If attorney's fees should be awarded and  
16 how much they should be is a matter of law. It's not anything  
17 that you consider.

18 Once again, you have the verdict sheet.

19 Question 3: For the defendants for which you answered  
20 yes in questions 1 and 2 -- that is, the liability questions --  
21 did plaintiff prove by a preponderance of the evidence that she  
22 suffered (a) compensatory damages, you answer yes in the amount  
23 of whatever dollar sign you give, and then if you give a  
24 number, then you divide it. If you find against Euros El Tina,  
25 you say yes. If you don't, you say no. If you say yes, you

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1 say how much. And against defendant Santiago Quezada Sr., you  
2 say yes or no and how much.

3 So the first issue is how much in total is she  
4 entitled to? If you put an amount, then you divide it. It  
5 could be zero to 100 percent. It will be divided among the  
6 two, provided you answer yes in the first instance and give an  
7 amount in the first instance. If you don't give any  
8 compensatory damages, you check the box "no compensatory  
9 damages."

10 And then you answer question (b). If there were no  
11 compensatory damages, is plaintiff entitled to nominal damages?  
12 Now, if you've given compensatory damages, there are no nominal  
13 damages. You skip that question. If you do not give  
14 compensatory damages, you consider if plaintiff should or  
15 should not be given nominal damages. Yes or no.

16 Again, first you consider compensatory damages. If  
17 you give compensatory damages, you divide it, zero to 100  
18 percent. If you do not give compensatory damages, you consider  
19 nominal damages, yes or no. If plaintiff is entitled to  
20 neither compensatory or nominal damages, you check the box yes  
21 or no.

22 Then you turn the page and you go on to the issue of  
23 punitive damages.

24 For the defendants for which you answered yes in  
25 questions 1 and 2 -- that is, that plaintiff is entitled to

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1 either compensatory or nominal damages against that  
2 defendant -- then you go on to ask if plaintiff proved by a  
3 preponderance of the evidence that she also should be awarded  
4 punitive damages. So you get to punitive damages only if  
5 you've answered yes either to compensatory or nominal. If you  
6 answer neither, you don't get to punitive damages. If you  
7 answer yes to either compensatory or nominal, then you go on to  
8 punitive.

9 So the first line is yes, in the amount of -- dollar  
10 sign -- you pick out the number that you think is appropriate  
11 for punitive damages. And then again, you divide between the  
12 two defendants, yes or no, and how much, and it's zero to 100  
13 percent again. You pick the right amount. Or no punitive  
14 damages, you check the box "no punitive damages."

15 Those are the questions on the verdict sheet. They  
16 will be given to the foreperson, whomever you elect, and when  
17 the jury has reached a unanimous verdict, the foreperson signs  
18 that verdict sheet and sends me a note, "The jury has reached a  
19 verdict." Do not send me the verdict sheet. It has to be read  
20 in open court.

21 Now, let me talk to you about the nature of evidence.

22 There are two general types: direct and  
23 circumstantial. You may rely upon either in reaching your  
24 decision. Evidence is direct when exhibits that are admitted  
25 into evidence show facts or when the testimony is sworn to by

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1 witnesses who have actual knowledge of them from something  
2 they've derived from the exercise of their senses, something  
3 they heard, something they saw, something they smelled,  
4 something they touched, so on.

5 Circumstantial evidence is evidence that tends to  
6 prove a disputed fact by proof of other facts. You infer on  
7 the basis of reason and experience and common sense from an  
8 established fact the existence or nonexistence of another fact.

9 Both types of evidence have strength and weaknesses.  
10 The law does not require any special standards with regard to  
11 each. The law requires by taking all the evidence into  
12 consideration whether the plaintiff has met her standard of  
13 proof by a preponderance of the evidence.

14 There have been things said in the openings and  
15 summations of counsel about whether particular witnesses should  
16 be believed -- that is, their credibility. You are being  
17 called upon to resolve various factual issues in the face of  
18 different and irreconcilable pictures taken by the plaintiff  
19 and by the defendants. You have to decide whether the  
20 plaintiff has proved her case by a preponderance of the  
21 evidence. An important part of this decision will involve  
22 making judgments about the testimony she gave and about the  
23 testimony of other witnesses. You should carefully scrutinize  
24 all the testimony of each witness, the circumstances under  
25 which each witness testified and any other matter in evidence

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1 which may help you to decide the truth and the importance of  
2 each witness's testimony.

3           There is no magic formula for evaluating testimony.  
4 You bring to this courtroom all the experience and background  
5 of your lives in your everyday affairs. You determine for  
6 yourself every day and in a multitude of circumstances the  
7 reliability of statements which are made to you by others. The  
8 same tests that you use in your everyday matters of importance  
9 are the tests you use in your deliberations.

10           Your decision whether or not to believe a witness may  
11 depend on how that witness impressed you. What was the quality  
12 of the witness's observation of the event about which the  
13 witness was testifying? Was the witness's vision clear or  
14 obstructed? Did events happen very fast, at about the same  
15 time and in various places? Was the witness candid, frank and  
16 forthright? Did the witness seem as if he or she was hiding  
17 something, being evasive or suspect in some way? How did the  
18 way in which the witness testified on direct examination  
19 compare with the way in which he or she testified on  
20 cross-examination? Was the testimony consistent or  
21 contradictory? Did the witness appear to know what he or she  
22 was talking about, and did the witness strike you as someone  
23 who was trying to report his or her knowledge accurately?

24           You may consider evidence of a witness's prior  
25 inconsistent statements. A prior inconsistent statement is a



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1 sworn statement made at an earlier time that is inconsistent  
2 with the witness's trial testimony.

3 If you find that the witness made an earlier statement  
4 that conflicts with his or her trial testimony, you may  
5 consider that fact in deciding how much to credit the witness.  
6 You may consider whether the witness purposely made a false  
7 statement or if it was an innocent mistake; whether the  
8 inconsistency turns on an important fact or a minor detail; the  
9 quality of the witness's explanation for the inconsistency; and  
10 whether you find the witness's explanation appealing to your  
11 common sense. It's your duty, based on all the evidence and  
12 your own judgment, to decide if the prior statements you have  
13 heard were inconsistent with the trial testimony, and if so,  
14 how much weight, if any, to give to the statement made during  
15 trial.

16 How much you choose to believe a witness may be  
17 influenced by the witness's bias. Does the witness have a  
18 relationship with one of the parties, or was she a party, that  
19 may affect how he or she testifies? Does the witness have an  
20 interest in the outcome of the case, some incentive of loyalty  
21 or motive that may cause her or him to shade the truth? Does  
22 the witness have some bias, prejudice or hostility that may  
23 have caused the witness, consciously or not, to give you  
24 something other than a clearly accurate account of the facts he  
25 or she testified about?

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1           These are general rules applicable to many cases, and  
2           you apply that which is applicable to this case in your  
3           opinion.

4           If a witness has an interest in the outcome, that  
5           witness is not necessarily incapable of giving truthful  
6           testimony. It's for you to decide to what extent, if at all,  
7           the witness's interest has affected or colored his or her  
8           testimony. But evidence that a witness is biased, prejudiced  
9           or hostile with respect to someone else requires you to view  
10          that witness's testimony with caution, to weigh the evidence  
11          with care and subject it to careful consideration.

12          If you find the witness has willfully testified  
13          falsely as to any material fact, you have the right to reject  
14          that testimony in its entirety. Alternatively, even if you  
15          find that a witness has testified falsely or inaccurately about  
16          one matter, you may reject as false or inaccurate that portion  
17          of testimony and accept as true any other portion of testimony  
18          that recommends itself to your belief or which you may find  
19          corroborated by other evidence in the case.

20          In deciding credibility, in short, you size up a  
21          witness in light of his or her demeanor, the explanations given  
22          and all the other evidence in the case, just as you would in  
23          any important matter where you're trying to decide if a person  
24          is truthful, straightforward and accurate in his or her  
25          recollection. Use your common sense, your good judgment and

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1 your experience.

2 You may have heard that witnesses have discussed the  
3 facts of the case with their lawyers before they appeared in  
4 court. There's nothing unusual or improper about such  
5 meetings. However, it's something you may consider.

6 Lastly, it's perfectly legitimate for counsel to  
7 attack the credibility of any witness by attempting to impeach  
8 the witness. That's part of normal client-lawyer activity.  
9 But in the end, you ask yourself was that witness credible?  
10 How much should I believe in what he or she have said?

11 Defendant Quezada Sr. chose not to testify. He had  
12 the right to testify, and he was present throughout the trial  
13 and heard everything that was said against him. He chose not  
14 to testify, and defendants chose not to present any witnesses.  
15 That was his right and that was their right. Defendants ask  
16 you to judge this case entirely on plaintiff's proofs. They  
17 contend that it is plaintiff's burden to prove her case by a  
18 preponderance of the evidence, and they contend that she failed  
19 to satisfy her burden of proof. The law gives a defendant the  
20 right to make such an argument.

21 However, you are the judges of the facts, and you have  
22 heard the testimony of Ms. Pizarro, Mr. Castro and Mr. Dilone.  
23 The only other person with direct knowledge is Mr. Quezada Sr.  
24 Although either party could have called him as a witness, his  
25 choice not to testify leaves you with only plaintiff's account

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1 of what happened. If you find her testimony credible, there is  
2 no alternative account that you can consider. You must ask  
3 yourself if, from the credible evidence, plaintiff proved her  
4 case of a hostile work environment by a preponderance of the  
5 evidence.

6 In determining the facts, you should rely upon your  
7 own recollection of the evidence. What the lawyers have said  
8 in their opening statements or in their closing statements, in  
9 their objections or in their questions is not evidence. A  
10 question put to a witness is not evidence. Only the answer,  
11 responsive to the question, is evidence.

12 It's the duty of the attorneys on each side of the  
13 case to object when the other side offers testimony or other  
14 evidence which an attorney believes is not properly admissible.  
15 Counsel also have the right and duty to ask the Court to make  
16 rulings of law and request conferences at the sidebar out of  
17 the hearing of the jury. That is not your concern. You should  
18 not show any prejudice against any attorney or the attorney's  
19 client because of any objection made by that attorney or any  
20 request for rulings or any requests for sidebar. Those are  
21 matters of law for me to address. They're not matters for you.  
22 Your reliance is on what the witnesses said and what the  
23 documents said.

24 Sometimes I sustained objections. Sometimes I did  
25 not. My rulings should not affect you in any way. Do not

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1 guess why I'm making a ruling. Do not guess, if I sustained an  
2 objection, what the witness might have said or what the lawyer  
3 might have argued. That's not in the case. The only evidence  
4 in the case is what the witnesses said and what the documents  
5 said.

6 Sometimes I asked questions of a witness. My  
7 questions have no more importance than the lawyers' questions.  
8 The fact that I asked a question, again, is of no concern to  
9 you. You are the sole and exclusive judges of the facts. I  
10 have not meant to indicate any opinion as to the facts or what  
11 your verdict should be. The rulings I have made during the  
12 trial are not an indication of whatever views I might have. I  
13 have no opinion as to this case. It's not my job. It's your  
14 job, and I will not intrude on what you have to do.

15 You're not to be swayed by sympathy or bias in coming  
16 to a decision. You're to be guided solely by the evidence and  
17 the crucial question "did plaintiff prove her case by a  
18 preponderance of the evidence?" So you should not consider any  
19 personal feelings you might have about anyone's personal  
20 characteristics or the lawyers' characteristics, not their  
21 race, not their religion, not their national origin, not their  
22 sex, not their age, not their duty, not anything else, only the  
23 merits of the case. That is your duty and responsibility.

24 Our judicial system cannot work and equal justice  
25 under the law cannot be given if you allow your verdict to be

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1 swayed by anything other than the merits of the case.

2 Some of you took notes throughout the case. Those  
3 notes are to assist only the note-taker. They're not to aid in  
4 anyone else's recollection, and they're not to be used to  
5 persuade any other juror. The fact that something is in your  
6 notes is of no consequence to anyone else but you. If there's  
7 any question about recollection of any particular item of  
8 testimony or any exhibit that you consider important, you can  
9 ask that testimony to be brought back to you either in the form  
10 of rereading or in the form of a physical copy.

11 Now, your verdict must be unanimous. Whether it's for  
12 or against any particular question, there must be unanimity as  
13 to each and every question you answer.

14 Each juror is entitled to his or her opinion. Each,  
15 however, should exchange views with all fellow jurors, for that  
16 is the very essence of jury deliberation -- to discuss and  
17 consider the evidence, to listen to the arguments of fellow  
18 jurors, to present your own views, to consult with one another  
19 and to reach an agreement based solely and wholly on the  
20 evidence. Each of you must decide the case for yourselves  
21 after consideration with your fellow jurors of the evidence in  
22 the case. You should not hesitate to change an opinion if  
23 after discussion with fellow jurors their view appears to be  
24 correct and yours does not. That's the very purpose of  
25 deliberations. However, if, after carefully considering all

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1 the evidence and the arguments of your fellow jurors, you  
2 entertain a conscientious view that differs from the others,  
3 you should stick to your conscientious conviction and not  
4 abandon it simply because you are outnumbered.

5 Your final vote must reflect your conscientious  
6 convictions as to how the issues should be decided. Your  
7 verdict as to each and every question must be unanimous.

8 The foreperson has a notepad and will be given  
9 envelopes. If any juror has a question either about my rulings  
10 or about my instructions or about the evidence in the case, the  
11 foreperson is to describe the question and put it in a sealed  
12 envelope, give it to the court security officer. It will be  
13 brought to me. I'll read it to the lawyers, and we'll together  
14 consider the answer that we should be giving. All your  
15 questions will be answered. Sometimes it takes time.  
16 Meanwhile, you continue your deliberations.

17 Do not let me know what you're thinking. Just ask me  
18 a question. Don't tell me who is asking the question. It's  
19 the jury who asks the question. Don't tell me whether there  
20 are any votes one way or the other. Don't tell me how  
21 different people may be thinking. I do not want to know any of  
22 this, and it's no business of anybody's. You are the jury.  
23 What you say to each other is in confidence and should be  
24 respected as such. So I just want to know what the question is  
25 to give you information, and nothing else.

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1           Your verdict will and must be announced only in open  
2           court at the end of your deliberations. When you finish your  
3           deliberations, the foreperson will then put down the answers  
4           you unanimously give. When all the questions are answered, a  
5           note should be sent, "The jury is ready for their verdict."  
6           Then you will be brought out into court, and the foreperson  
7           will read the verdict. First the document is inspected to make  
8           sure it's proper in form, and then the foreperson will read it.

9           I think I've completed what I have to say to you, but  
10          let me see if either lawyer has anything to modify or change.

11          Counsel, please, sidebar.

12          (AT sidebar)

13          THE COURT: Mr. Brustein.

14          MR. BRUSTEIN: Yes, your Honor. I believe you need to  
15          instruct the jury as to how they choose a foreperson.

16          THE COURT: Sorry?

17          MR. BRUSTEIN: How the jury chooses a foreperson.

18          THE COURT: I have to do that. Thank you.

19          MR. RESTITUYO: The last question as to damages, your  
20          Honor, I think it's unclear. May I?

21          THE COURT: Where?

22          MR. RESTITUYO: This one, the "yes," "no," "neither."  
23          First it's not stated as a question, and then it's unclear  
24          whether neither, nor will be yes or no.

25          THE COURT: What do you want me to do?



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1 MR. RESTITUYO: I think maybe right now the quickest  
2 answer is have them write out the response. I think the  
3 easiest way for them is to have them write out the response --  
4 yes, damages; no, damages. That way it's clear.

5 THE COURT: Do you mean check a box?

6 MR. RESTITUYO: Yeah. First, it's not a question.  
7 Second is "neither," "nor," the double negative could be a  
8 positive, is my point.

9 THE COURT: Are you telling me to strike out question  
10 6ix?

11 MR. RESTITUYO: You can. If you do, then it's  
12 self-explanatory.

13 THE COURT: Strike out question 6?

14 MR. BRUSTEIN: I have no objection to that, your  
15 Honor.

16 THE COURT: OK.

17 MR. RESTITUYO: Here's a pen, if you want.

18 THE CLERK: I can do it electronically.

19 THE COURT: Or we can just cross it out. Just cross  
20 it out.

21 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Let her print it for the jury. On  
22 ours you can just cross out.

23 MR. RESTITUYO: Perfect.

24 MR. BRUSTEIN: That's fine, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: OK. You can go back to your seats.

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1 (In open court)

2 THE COURT: One minute.

3 I have two points, members of the jury, that need to  
4 be clarified.

5 No. 1 is that I didn't tell you about the rules of  
6 forepersons. The jury should make that the first order of  
7 business, to elect their foreperson. If you fail to elect a  
8 foreperson, by convention in this court, juror No. 1 will be  
9 the foreperson. But it's for you to vote and decide.

10 The second thing is counsel pointed out a logical  
11 inconsistency in the jury verdict sheet.

12 They've suggested, and I've agreed, to take out the  
13 last part of question 3. So first you're asked about  
14 compensatory damages. Then you're asked if there are no  
15 compensatory damages, is plaintiff entitled to nominal damages?  
16 Yes or no. And then by repeating the negative, I created  
17 confusion. So we've crossed out the last subparagraph, (c).  
18 We'll give you a clean copy that doesn't have it. And that  
19 finishes what I have to tell you.

20 Now Ms. Jones is going to give you envelopes and a  
21 verdict sheet. And we're ready to swear the court security  
22 officer.

23 (Court security officer sworn)

24 THE COURT: The jury may now retire to begin  
25 deliberations. There will be lunch for you at 1 o'clock.

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1 (At 12:48 p.m., the jury retired to deliberate upon a  
2 verdict)

3 THE COURT: You may be seated.

4 Make sure Ms. Jones knows how to reach you.

5 (Recess pending verdict)

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AFTERNOON SESSION

235 p.m.

THE COURT: Be seated, please.

We've received two notes from the jury, which I shared with you. They've been marked Court Exhibits 7 and 8.

Court Exhibit 7 reads as follows:

"Please redefine compensatory and punitive damages."  
And it's signed -- I don't know; we'll find out -- 1:30 p.m.,  
today's date.

And exhibit 8 reads:

"Are there other owners of the business? What is the  
structure of ownership percentages?"

It came in at 2 o'clock.

Turning to the second question first, the only  
testimony I remember on this is Ms. Pizarro's testimony that  
Quezada Sr. bought the business from Ms. Pizarro and her  
husband.

Is there any other evidence in the case?

It's not what the situation is; it's what the evidence  
is.

MR. BRUSTEIN: One second, your Honor? I'm trying to  
recollect the testimony.

Your Honor, my recollection is that during the  
cross-examination of Mr. Castro, Mr. Restituyo elicited an  
identification of Santiago Quezada Jr. and asked who he was,

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1 and I believe, if my memory serves correct, he talked about him  
2 being an owner.

3 THE COURT: I remember the question, but I don't  
4 remember the answer.

5 Mr. Restituyo, what's your memory?

6 MR. RESTITUYO: I don't remember the answer.  
7 That's -- you don't -- in actuality, that's not the case.

8 THE COURT: October 17, on the Live Note, here is the  
9 question:

10 "Q. What were her duties?

11 "A. Generally to follow the instructions of Santiago Quezada  
12 Sr. and Santiago Quezada Jr., who were the owners."

13 I'll read that line to them from Mr. Castro's  
14 testimony.

15 As to the first question, "Please redefine  
16 compensatory and punitive damages," I propose to read the model  
17 instructions from the treatise on federal employment jury  
18 instructions, which I handed out and which we can mark as Court  
19 Exhibit 9.

20 Are there objections?

21 Mr. Brustein.

22 MR. BRUSTEIN: No, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Mr. Restituyo.

24 MR. RESTITUYO: No objection, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: OK.

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1 MR. RESTITUYO: Your Honor, will there be an  
2 instruction with respect to punitive damages?

3 THE COURT: I'll read what I had before.

4 MR. RESTITUYO: OK. That's fine.

5 (Jury present)

6 THE COURT: Be seated, everyone.

7 Thank you for your notes, members of the jury. I'm  
8 required to read them to you to make sure that they're your  
9 notes.

10 The first note, coming in at 1:30 p.m. and signed  
11 by -- is that Mr. Wallack?

12 THE FOREPERSON: Yes.

13 THE COURT: You're the foreperson.

14 THE FOREPERSON: Yes.

15 THE COURT: The question is, "Please redefine  
16 compensatory and punitive damages." We marked the first note  
17 Court Exhibit 7.

18 The second note is: "Are there other owners of the  
19 business? What is the structure or ownership percentages?"

20 I'll answer the second note first. There's only one  
21 item of testimony that deals with the ownership, maybe two.  
22 One is the testimony Ms. Pizarro gave -- that Mr. Quezada Sr.  
23 bought the business from Ms. Pizarro and her husband.

24 The second, in Castro's testimony, he was asked:  
25 "Q. What were her duties?

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1 "A. Generally, to follow the instructions of Santiago Quezada  
2 Sr. and Santiago Quezada Jr., who were the owners."

3 That's all the evidence that we have on that point.

4 On the first point, "Please redefine compensatory and  
5 punitive damages," I'll divide them up.

6 As to compensatory damages, I told you essentially  
7 this: That plaintiff is entitled to recover as compensatory  
8 damages the amount of money that will justly and fairly  
9 compensate her for any injuries proximately caused by the  
10 defendants' conduct, including mental anguish, emotional harm,  
11 fear, and humiliation proximately caused by the defendants'  
12 conduct.

13 I could give you a more elaborate charge if that might  
14 be helpful.

15 Plaintiff is also entitled to recover damages in an  
16 amount which will reasonably compensate her for the loss and  
17 injuries suffered as a result of defendants' unlawful conduct.

18 You may award plaintiff reasonable compensation for  
19 the following:

- 20 1. Pain, suffering and physical or emotional distress;
- 21 2. Embarrassment and humiliation;
- 22 3. Loss of enjoyment of life -- that is, plaintiff's loss  
23 of the ability to enjoy certain aspects of her life as a result  
24 of defendants' discriminatory actions; and
- 25 4, which is not relevant, any out-of-pocket expenses or

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1 losses incurred as a result of the unlawful discrimination.

2           You may consider the testimony and the demeanor of  
3 plaintiff in considering and determining a fair allowance for  
4 any damages for emotional distress, humiliation and loss of  
5 enjoyment of life. Emotional harm may manifest itself, for  
6 example, as sleeplessness, anxiety, stress, depression, marital  
7 strain, embarrassment, humiliation, loss of respect, emotional  
8 distress, loss of self-esteem or excessive fatigue. Physical  
9 manifestations of emotional harm may also occur, and there's  
10 been no evidence of that in this case, such as ulcers,  
11 headaches, skin rashes, gastrointestinal disorders or hair  
12 loss.

13           In the determination of the amount of the award, it  
14 will often be impossible for you to arrive at a precise award.  
15 These damages are intangible, and it is difficult to arrive at  
16 a precise evaluation of actual damages for emotional harm from  
17 gender discrimination. No opinion of any witness is required  
18 as to the amount of such reasonable compensation. Nonetheless,  
19 it is necessary to arrive at a reasonable award that is  
20 supported by the evidence.

21           To be entitled to punitive damages, the plaintiff must  
22 prove against each defendant that the defendant's conduct not  
23 only was wrongful but also was malicious, oppressive, wanton or  
24 showed a callous or reckless disregard of her rights. The  
25 purpose of punitive damages is to punish defendants for



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1 shocking conduct and to set an example to deter others from  
2 committing similar acts in the future.

3 Punitive damages are to be awarded only if you believe  
4 the defendant acted so outrageously that an example and a  
5 deterrent needs to be provided to assure that the defendant and  
6 others will be less likely to engage in such conduct in the  
7 future. Any award you give should be reasonable and  
8 proportionate to the need to punish and deter.

9 Is there any further question?

10 You may continue to deliberate. Thank you very much.

11 (Jury deliberations continued; time noted: 3:00 p.m.)

12 THE COURT: See you at the next question or the next  
13 note.

14 MR. BRUSTEIN: Thank you, your Honor.

15 (Recess pending verdict)

16 THE COURT: Be seated.

17 We have a note; we'll mark it Court Exhibit 9: "We  
18 have reached a verdict." 3:35 p.m.

19 Call the jury.

20 (Jury present)

21 THE COURT: Be seated, everyone.

22 Ms. Jones, take the attendance of the jury.

23 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury,  
24 please answer present when your name is called.

25 (Jury roll called)

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1 THE COURT: All members of the jury are present.

2 I have a note marked as Court Exhibit 9: "We have  
3 reached a verdict."

4 Mr. Foreperson, would you please give Ms. Jones your  
5 verdict sheet for my inspection.

6 Please return the verdict sheet to the foreperson.

7 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Mr. Foreperson, please rise.

8 As to defendant Euros El Tina, did the plaintiff Maria  
9 Jose Pizarro prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that,  
10 (a) she endured severe or pervasive conduct due to her gender,  
11 amounting to a hostile work environment?

12 THE FOREPERSON: Yes.

13 THE DEPUTY CLERK: (b) she was treated less well in  
14 the workplace due to her gender?

15 THE FOREPERSON: Yes.

16 THE DEPUTY CLERK: As to defendant Santiago Quezada  
17 Sr., did plaintiff Maria Jose Pizarro prove, by a preponderance  
18 of the evidence, that, as owner or her supervisor, he treated  
19 her less well in the workplace due to her gender?

20 THE FOREPERSON: Yes.

21 THE DEPUTY CLERK: For the defendant for which you  
22 answered "yes" in questions 1 and 2, did plaintiff prove, by a  
23 preponderance of the evidence, that she suffered compensatory  
24 damages?

25 THE FOREPERSON: Yes.

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1 THE DEPUTY CLERK: In the amount of?

2 THE FOREPERSON: 1,725,000.

3 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Divided among defendants, defendant  
4 Euros El Tina.

5 THE FOREPERSON: 725,000.

6 THE DEPUTY CLERK: If yes, for how much should the  
7 defendant be responsible?

8 THE COURT: He answered yes.

9 THE DEPUTY CLERK: For defendant Santiago Quezada Sr.?

10 THE FOREPERSON: 1 million.

11 THE COURT: Did you answer the questions yes or no?

12 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Yes.

13 THE FOREPERSON: Yes and no.

14 THE COURT: You have to check a box. Which one?

15 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Yes and yes.

16 THE COURT: Which one, Mr. Foreperson?

17 THE FOREPERSON: For defendant Euros El Tina, yes.

18 THE DEPUTY CLERK: And for defendant Santiago Quezada  
19 Sr.

20 THE FOREPERSON: Yes.

21 THE DEPUTY CLERK: For the defendant for which you  
22 answered "yes" in questions 1 and 2 -- that is, that plaintiff  
23 is entitled to compensatory or nominal damages against the  
24 defendant -- did plaintiff prove, by a preponderance of the  
25 evidence, that she also should be awarded punitive damages?

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1 THE FOREPERSON: Yes, in the amount of 1 million.

2 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Divided among defendants, defendant  
3 Euros El Tina.

4 THE FOREPERSON: Yes, 375,000.

5 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Defendant Santiago Quezada Sr.

6 THE FOREPERSON: Yes, 625,000.

7 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Foreperson.

8 Ms. Jones, would you take the verdict sheet and show  
9 it to counsel.

10 Thank you, Mr. Foreperson.

11 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

12 THE COURT: Do the parties wish the jury to be polled?

13 MR. BRUSTEIN: No, your Honor.

14 MR. RESTITUYO: No, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Thank you.

16 Members of the jury, you've done your duty. You  
17 served here, you served well, you served honorably. You were  
18 attendant to the evidence. You deliberated and you've reached  
19 a verdict. For this I thank you. For this the administration  
20 of justice thanks you.

21 I said in the instructions that juries are fundamental  
22 to the liberties of American citizens. They assure equal  
23 justice under the law. They assure a disciplined courtroom.  
24 They assure a fair and impartial verdict reached by a person's  
25 peers. There is no substitute for this. I don't think any

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1 other country does this to the extent that we do. I am proud  
2 of our jury system. I hope you are. I hope you've enjoyed  
3 your service.

4 I said at the outset that you are not to speak about  
5 this to anyone. You are now free of any restrictions of the  
6 courtroom, but you may decide, as a matter of your own  
7 consciousness and as a matter of respect for your fellow  
8 jurors, that you should keep the confidence of one another and  
9 not disclose what any particular one thought or what you all  
10 thought. It's your business. It's nobody else's business, but  
11 you are free to do what you do.

12 Ms. Jones will collect your books. We'll destroy your  
13 notes. And I thank you again for your service.

14 Good afternoon.

15 (Jury discharged)

16 THE COURT: Be seated, please.

17 I have a question of fees to entertain. How should we  
18 proceed, Mr. Brustein?

19 MR. BRUSTEIN: Your Honor, I would request time to be  
20 able to provide an application to the Court.

21 THE COURT: How much time would you like?

22 MR. BRUSTEIN: Your Honor, I would ask for 45 days.

23 THE COURT: 45 days? You need that much?

24 MR. BRUSTEIN: The reason for that, your Honor, is I  
25 have a few other motions due, and I didn't want to have to ask

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1 for more time.

2 THE COURT: All right. We'll get a date for you.

3 Let me suggest this. There should be a date before  
4 you send it to me when you give it to Mr. Restituyo and discuss  
5 with him how much you can agree to and how much you can't.  
6 Would you like 45 days for that?

7 MR. BRUSTEIN: Yes, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: That would be December 8 for giving a copy  
9 to Mr. Restituyo, and December 22 for giving me your filing  
10 with whatever agreement you get from Mr. Restituyo.

11 If there is no agreement, when would you like to  
12 respond, Mr. Restituyo?

13 MR. RESTITUYO: By January 26, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: January 26.

15 Reply, if any, will be due February 8.

16 MR. BRUSTEIN: I'm sorry. Did you say 8th or 18th?

17 THE COURT: 8th, a short reply.

18 Mr. Restituyo, you can have motions now for a new  
19 trial and for judgment according to the law. When would you  
20 like to file those motions, or do you want to make them orally?

21 MR. RESTITUYO: No. I'd like a written motion, your  
22 Honor, and could I get --

23 THE COURT: Let me check the rule.

24 Rule 50(b) provides motion for judgment as a matter of  
25 law after trial may be made "no later than 28 days after the

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1 entry of judgment, or if the motion addresses a jury issue not  
2 decided by verdict, no later than 28 days after the jury was  
3 discharged." You have until 28 days from today.

4 MR. RESTITUYO: Judgment will be entered today, your  
5 Honor?

6 THE COURT: Which will be November 23. I think that  
7 may be jurisdictional, but I don't know. Can you do it by  
8 November 23?

9 MR. RESTITUYO: If that's what I have, I'll make it  
10 work. Although isn't November 23 Thanksgiving, your Honor?

11 THE COURT: Yes. And I think the 24th is a holiday,  
12 so it will be November 27. But for your sake, I'm not sure  
13 that you want to hedge a bet. I can fix it November 27, but if  
14 it's jurisdictional, that won't make a difference. So act  
15 accordingly.

16 MR. RESTITUYO: Understood.

17 THE COURT: I consider that you've made your motions  
18 during trial, so you're eligible to make this motion.

19 MR. RESTITUYO: Thank you, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: All right. Opposition December 14.

21 Reply December 23.

22 MR. BRUSTEIN: I apologize. Could you just repeat  
23 those two dates one more time, your Honor?

24 THE COURT: I'm going to repeat all the dates.

25 Motions for judgment as a matter of law under Rule 50

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1 and motions for retrial under Rule 59, the time to file such  
2 motions is November 27, allowing for the fact that Thanksgiving  
3 Day and the Friday after that are holidays and there's a  
4 weekend that follows, Saturday and Sunday. November 27 is the  
5 following Monday. November 22 is the last business day before  
6 Thanksgiving. By my count, Mr. Restituyo will be able to file  
7 his motion until November 27.

8 Opposition by December 14.

9 Reply by December 22.

10 And as to the motion to establish attorney's fees, by  
11 December 8 you will give your motion to Mr. Restituyo,  
12 Mr. Brustein. And two weeks later, by December 22, you will  
13 file your motion along with whatever admissions or consents you  
14 get from Mr. Restituyo.

15 Opposition is by January 26.

16 Reply by February 8.

17 We will issue an order reflecting these dates.

18 Is there anything else?

19 MR. BRUSTEIN: Not from the plaintiff, your Honor.

20 MR. RESTITUYO: Nothing from defendants, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Thank you, both, very much.

22 MR. BRUSTEIN: Thank you, your Honor.

23 (Adjourned)  
24  
25